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resolve, *v.*

Pronunciation: Brit. /rɪˈzɒlv/, U.S. /rəˈzɒlv/, /riˈzɒlv/, /rəˈzɑlv/ ,

/riˈzɑlv/

Forms: ME **resolu**, ME–16 **resolue**, ME– **resolve**, 15 **resoulve**, 16 **resollve**, 16 **resolv** ...

Etymology: < classical Latin *resolvere*...

I. Senses relating to liquefaction, dissolution, or softening.

1. In later use only with *into* (cf. sense 8).

a. trans. To cause to melt or dissolve; to reduce from a solid to a liquid or fluid state. Now *rare*.

In quot. a1398: to soften by the application of heat.

- ▶ a1398 J. TREVISA tr. Bartholomaeus Anglicus *De Proprietatibus Rerum* (BL Add.) f. 199, A stoon resolueþ [read resolved; L. *resolutus*] wiþ hete torneþ in to bras.
- ?c1400 (▶c1380) CHAUCER tr. Boethius *De Consol. Philos.* (BL Add. 10340) (1868) IV. met. v. l. 3814 Þe wey3te of þe snowe yhardid by þe colde is resolved [L. *solvier*] by þe brennynghe hete of phebus þe sonne.
- ▶?1440 tr. Palladius *De Re Rustica* (Duke Humfrey) (1896) XII. 526 (*MED*), For brousty oil, whit wax is to resolue In fynest oil, and theryn throwe hit so.
- 1530 J. PALSGRAVE *Lesclarcissement* 688/1 This metall can nat be resolved without a marvayllous sharpe fyre.
- 1555 R. EDEN tr. Peter Martyr of Angleria *Decades of Newe Worlde* III. i. f. 93^v, Cleopatra..resolved a pearle in vineger and drunke it.
- 1609 P. HOLLAND tr. A. Marcellinus *Rom. Hist.* 117 Euphrates was risen by reason of snow newly thawed and resolved.
- 1678 DRYDEN *All for Love* III. 32 He could resolve his mind, as Fire does Wax, From that hard rugged Image, melt him down [etc.].
- 1732 J. ARBUTHNOT *Pract. Rules of Diet* i. 270 Soaps which resolve solid Substances.
- 1735 T. DALLOWE tr. H. Boerhaave *Elements Chem.* I. II. 240 Let it [*sc.* the white of an egg] be exposed to 92 degrees of Heat..and it will in a little time be resolved into a Liquid, that grows continually thinner and thinner.
- 1834 P. M. ROGET *Animal & Veg. Physiol.* I. 97 A soft and transparent jelly, which by spontaneous decomposition after death..is resolved almost wholly into a limpid watery fluid.
- 1905 *Atlantic Monthly* Nov. 656/2 There it [*sc.* ice] will remain..until the warm sun of spring shall resolve it into water again.
- 1998 D. GARBER et al. in D. Garber & M. Ayers *Cambr. Hist. 17th-Cent. Philos.* (2003) I. xviii. 560 Solid combustibles.., like resins and waxes, must first be resolved into liquid.

†**b. trans.** To condense (a vapour or mist) to a liquid. Also *fig. Obs.*

- a1398 J. TREVISA tr. Bartholomaeus Anglicus *De Proprietatibus Rerum* (BL Add.) f. 199^v,
Myst..soone þer after..is resolved in to reyn dropes.
- c1450 (•c1415) in W. O. Ross *Middle Eng. Serm.* (1940) 247 (MED), Som tyme he resolueþ by very
contricion þe thike cloudes of synne in-to swete dewy teres.
- 1635 J. SWAN *Speculum Mundi* v. §2. 144 Green clouds..are altogether watery, and as it were already
resolved into water.
- 1668 N. CULPEPER & A. COLE tr. T. Bartholin *Anat.* (new ed.) I. xxvii. 65 The sooty Vapors are
condensed, and being resolved into water, are [etc.].
- 1878 *Sanitary Rec.* 4 Jan. 9/1 Another physicist..has attacked oxygen, and, with the aid of great
pressure and cold, has resolved it into a liquid.
- 1892 T. S. HUNT *Systematic Mineral.* (ed. 2) iii. 18 The vapor of water above 100°..behaves like a true
gas, but below that point is resolved into a liquid.

c. intr. To melt; to dissolve; to become liquid. Also *fig.* Now *rare*.

- c1450 *Alphabet of Tales* (1905) II. 443 Þis yse resoluyd into watir.
- a1500 (•?a1425) tr. *Secreta Secret.* (Lamb.) 72 In þis tyme..þe wyndes blowyn, þe snow resoluyt.
- c1540 J. BELLENDEN tr. H. Boece *Cosmogr.* viii, in *Hyst. & Cron. Scotl.* sig. Bv^v, Ony frosyn thyng (that
is cassyn in it) meltis and resoluist hastelie.
- 1611 B. JONSON *Catiline* III. i. 740 May my braine Resolue to water, and my bloud turne phlegme.
- a1616 SHAKESPEARE *King John* (1623) v. iv. 25 Euen as a forme of waxe Resolueth from his figure
'gainst the fire.
- 1665 *Philos. Trans.* (Royal Soc.) 1 106 After a while it resolves again, and grows dilute.
- 1696 T. SOUTHERNE *Oroonoko* v. v, Our honours, interests resolving down, Run in the gentle current
of our joys.
- 1731 J. ARBUTHNOT *Ess. Nature Aliments* iv. 46 When the Blood stagnates in any part of the Body, it
first coagulates, then resolves, turns Alkaline.
- 1759 B. MARTIN *Nat. Hist. Eng.* I. 19 Congealed (as it were) in Clusters, which resolve, and the frozen
Swallows revive by the Warmth.
- 1791 W. NICHOLSON tr. J. A. C. Chaptal *Elements Chem.* III. VI. ix. 365 White flocks are deposited on
the sides of the glass, which resolve into a liquor by the contact of moist air.
- 1848 A. NORMANDY tr. H. Rose *Pract. Treat. Chem. Anal.* I. II. ii. 450 The compounds..all absorb
moisture from the air, and resolve into a yellow liquid.
- 1912 A. TEIXEIRA DE MATTOS tr. J. H. Fabre *Life of Spider* vii. 187 When ripe, the fleshy core resolves
into a liquid in which float the seeds.

d. trans. (refl.). = sense 1c. Now *rare*.

- 1604 SHAKESPEARE *Hamlet* I. ii. 130 O that this too too sallid flesh would melt, Thaw and resolve it
selfe into a dewe.
- 1800 R. SOUTHEY *Cool Reflections in Ann. Anthol.* II. 31 For the flesh upon them That hath resolved
itself into a dew.
- 1808 *Jrnl. Nat. Philos.* Dec. 267 A white salt, which on exposure to the air speedily resolved itself into
a fluid.

- 1868 SIR J. HERSCHEL in *People's Mag.* Jan. 63 Its pileus..has the singular property of resolving itself..into a black liquid.
- 1954 A. MOOREHEAD *Summer Night* iii. 61 Inside the press the grapes were bursting under their own weight, resolving themselves into a dark liquid pulp.

†**2. trans.** To soften (*lit.* and *fig.*); to cause to become slack or limp; to weaken. Also (*occas.*) *intr.* with object implied. *Obs.*

- a1398 J. TREVISA tr. Bartholomaeus Anglicus *De Proprietatibus Rerum* (BL Add. 27944) (1975) I. x. vii. 563 By his scharpnese cool sowdip iren and resoluyth and slakeþ þe parties þerof and makeþ it neissche.
- ?a1425 tr. Guy de Chauliac *Grande Chirurgie* (N.Y. Acad. Med.) f. 24 (*MED*), When..þe ende is of þe state, be þer noȝt but þat resolueþ & makeþ laxe.
- c1451 J. CAPGRAVE *Life St. Gilbert* 100 (*MED*), Þe grete constrictiion of hir wombe was resolved meruelously.
- 1484 CAXTON tr. *Subtyl Historyes & Fables Esope* f. iij, By cause the water was hote and their stomake [was] resolved by the water.
- 1541 T. ELYOT *Image of Gouvernance* x. f. 18^v, Like as by the other the strength of body is resolved.
- 1577 H. RHODES *Bk. Nurture* (new ed.) sig. Eiii, It is a very hard work of continence, to repell the paynting glose of flatterings whose words resolue the hart with plesure.
- 1588 T. KYD tr. Tasso *Housholders Philos.* f. 6^v, The night..[in which] we may sufficiently restore our bodies resolved with exceeding heate and contagions of the day.
- 1644 J. BULWER *Chirologia* 35 The Hand collected, the Fingers looking downwards, then turned and resolved.
- 1715 N. ROWE *Lady Jane Gray* II, Every moving accent that she breathes Resolves my courage, slackens my tough nerves.

3. Med.

†**a. trans.** To disperse or dissolve (humours, morbid material, etc.); to soften (an accumulation of hardened material). Also *intr.:* to perform or undergo such a process. *Obs.*

In later use there is some overlap with sense 3c.

- a1398 J. TREVISA tr. Bartholomaeus Anglicus *De Proprietatibus Rerum* (BL Add. 27944) (1975) II. XVIII. lxxxvii. 1238 In wynter humours ben sadde yfastned togidres by colde... And þerfore fewe fumositees ben resolved in þat tyme for passyng colde þat fastneþ þe humours in þe body.
- a1400 tr. Lanfranc *Sci. Chirurgie* (Ashm. 1396) 210 (*MED*), If þou miȝt not..do awei þe enpostym ne resolue him..þan þou schalt do þerto medicyns maturatiuis.
- a1400 tr. Lanfranc *Sci. Chirurgie* (Ashm. 1396) 353 (*MED*), Pan oonli wiþ resolutiuis..þe sotil mater wole resolue, & þat oþir part wole bcome hard.
- ?a1425 *MS Hunterian* 95 f. 105^v (*MED*), Ane harde enpostume is cured wiþ resolutiues & mollificatiues, so þat o tyme þu schalt resolue & anoþer tyme mollifie.
- a1500 tr. Lanfranc *Sci. Chirurgie* (Wellcome) f. 23 (*MED*), If þe mater..is gret..resolu it with a light resolutiue.

- ?1541 R. COPLAND *Galen's Fourth Bk. Therapeutike sig. Hiv*, in *Guy de Chauliac's Questyonyary Cyrurgyens*, When echymosis is all dygested & resolued, than it is parmytted to drye the broken flesshe.
- 1562 W. TURNER *Herball* (1568) II. 117 Oyl that is made of vnrype oliues..doth myghtely resolue.
- 1585 J. BANISTER *Wecker's Compend. Chyrurg.* I. 242 If the tumor doe by these meanes resolue and vanish, pursue it with a cataplasme.
- 1601 P. HOLLAND tr. Pliny *Hist. World* II. 274 Those plasters which resolue or maturat any impostumed place.
- 1610 G. MARKHAM *Maister-peece* II. clxxiii. 483 It burneth, draweth, and resolueth, and is goode for scurfe.
- 1683 W. SALMON *Doron Medicum* II. 427 For it resolves all hard humors.
- 1708 *Brit. Apollo* No. 93. 2/2 Green Tea..Resolves, and Attenuates.
- 1717 D. TURNER *Syphilis* II. 208 The inguinal Tumour entirely resolving, and the Pustules every where dying away and falling off.
- 1749 D. HARTLEY *Observ. Man* I. ii. §i. 127 Embrocations are of Use in resolving Obstructions.
- 1800 W. C. BROWN tr. G. Borsieri de Kanifeld *Inst. Pract. Med.* I. 296 Friction during the paroxysm..contributed much to resolve the remains of the swelling.

†**b. trans.** To relieve or reduce (a condition, esp. pain or numbness). *Obs.*
rare.

- 1573 *Treas. Hid. Secrets* xix, Oyle of Rue is hot, resolving pain.
- a1617 P. BAYNE *Comm. Ephes.* (1658) 130 Fire..hath not onely heat resolving numbnesse,..but it hath light.
- 1638 W. RAWLEY tr. Bacon *Hist. Nat. & Exper. Life & Death* 29 The Drying caused by Cold, is but weak, and easily resolved.
- 1651 D. BORDER *Πολυφαρμακος και Χυμιοστης* 135 It helpeth digestion and resolveth pain throughout the body, in what part soever they shall come, especially, when they have their beginning of cold.

c. trans. To bring (a disease, pathological process, etc.) to resolution
(RESOLUTION *n.*¹ 2c).

- 1730 *Dr. Allen's Synopsis Medicinæ* II. xii. 88 *Aq. calcis vivæ*, if anything else, always takes away the Inflammation, resolves and discusses it.
- 1732 J. ARBUTHNOT *Pract. Rules of Diet* iii. 321 Such a Fever is often resolv'd by a bleeding at the Nose.
- 1811 E. G. CLARKE *New London Pract. Physic* (ed. 7) 158 Emetics should be given with caution, if at all; and the clyster thrown up, which often resolves the inflammation.
- 1861 *Chicago Med. Examiner* 2 493 In relapsing fever, the powerful diaphoresis which so frequently at once resolves the fever, inculcates the same doctrine.
- 1898 T. C. ALLBUTT et al. *Syst. Med.* V. 361 When empyema follows upon pneumonia, the pulmonary inflammation sometimes is never resolved.
- 2002 *Daily Tel.* 3 May 24/8 This [*sc.* aloe vera gel] may resolve nasal polyps within eight weeks.

d. intr. Of a disease, pathological process, etc.: to undergo resolution (RESOLUTION *n.*¹ 2c).

- 1793 W. ROWLEY *Rational Pract. Physic* III. 13 Its cure should be attempted by a mode similar to the foregoing, by which the tumor often resolves.
- 1822 J. M. GOOD *Study Med.* II. 505 Regular fit of gout..gradually resolving, and leaving the constitution in its usual or improved health.
- 1898 P. MANSON *Trop. Dis.* xxvii. 434 These drugs have undoubtedly the power of causing the eruption in yaws to resolve.
- 1933 *Jrnl. Hygiene* **33** 283/1 Eustachian drainage is quickly re-established, allowing middle ear inflammation to resolve.
- 2001 *Cats* Aug. 9/1 Another possibility is cholangiohepatitis... It often never completely resolves, and tends to flare up from time to time.

†**4. intr.** With *of, from*. To flow out, issue. *Obs. rare.*

- ?c1400 (▷c1380) CHAUCER tr. Boethius *De Consol. Philos.* (BL Add. 10340) (1868) v. met. i. l. 4369 Tigris [and] eufrates resoluen [L. *resolvunt*] and spryngen of a welle in þe krages of þe roche of þe contre of achemenye.
- 1601 P. HOLLAND tr. Pliny *Hist. World* I. XII. xvi. 369 Little peeces..yeeld a certaine whitish liquor which issueth and resolveth from them.

†**5. trans.** With *in, into, to*. To cause to lapse into or be given over to a particular emotional state or mode of behaviour. *Usu. in pass. Obs.*

When used in relation to tears (of grief, etc.) often as part of an extended metaphor, and as such closer in meaning to sense 1; cf. DISSOLVE *v.* 3.

- ▷a1438 *Bk. Margery Kempe* I. 153 (MED), Sche was resoluyd in-to terys of pyte & compassyon.
- c1460 *Tree & 12 Frutes* (McClean) (1960) 15 (MED), Ofte tymes after mete many ben resoluid to lightnes and in to vnreligious myrthes.
- 1533 T. ELYOT *Pasquil the Playne* f. 7, Where thou seest thy lorde or mayster in the presence of many, resolved in to fury or wantonnesse.
- 1611 B. JONSON *Catiline* III. i. 609 Each house [being] Resolu'd in freedome.
- 1631 R. BOLTON *Instr. Right Comf. Affl. Consciencs* 260 The Alien..is by the heate of his slavish horroure, rather enraged with malice, then resolved into mercy.
- 1679 J. GOODMAN *Penitent Pardoned* II. i. 157 Such reflections and considerations as these break the very heart of a sinner, and resolve him into sighs and tears.

†**6. trans.** To cause (conflict) to cease. *Obs.*

- a1530 W. BONDE *Pylgrimage of Perfection* (1531) III. f. CClxxxii^v, It resolueth discorde, reconsyleth ennemyes, & maketh them frendes.

7. trans. Chiefly *Sc. Law*. To annul (a law, contract, etc.). Also *intr.*: (of a contract of sale) to become void. Now *rare*.

- 1537 in *State Papers Henry VIII* (1849) VII. 706 The act made for money by exchange, the wiche,..onles it be resolvid, wilbe a great ocacion..to cawse a stey for salis of wolen clothis.
- a1768 J. ERSKINE *Inst. Law Scotl.* (1773) II. III. iii. 449 If he fail to pay the price within the time limited, the sale resolves, and the property returns from him to the seller.
- 1771 in M. P. Brown *Decisions Lords of Council & Session 1766–91* (1826) I. 435, I do not see a substantial difference between the contract before and after the tailyie: all the parties concerned may still agree to resolve the contract and tailyie.
- 1838 W. BELL *Dict. Law Scotl.* 859 *Resolutive Condition*, a condition in a sale, which does not suspend the completion of the contract; but which resolves the sale, if the condition be purified at the time specified.
- 1978 *Internat. & Compar. Law Q.* **27** 277 The far more usual practice [in Roman law] was for the contract of sale to fix the latest date by which the price should be paid and empower the seller to resolve the contract if it was not paid by then.

II. Senses relating to splitting, breaking up, or transformation.

8.

a.

(a) *trans.* To break up or separate (a material thing) into constituent parts or elements; to disintegrate (something); (also) to cause (a body, earth, etc.) to decompose. Freq. (now usu.) with *into* (formerly also †*to*).

- a1398 J. TREVISA tr. Bartholomaeus Anglicus *De Proprietatibus Rerum* (BL Add. 27944) (1975) I. VII. xxxvi. 384 Whanne picke mater and gret and glemy so ioyned in þe body meoviþ by hete, hit nedip þat it be resolued..into vapour.
- ?c1400 (‣c1380) CHAUCER tr. Boethius *De Consol. Philos.* (BL Add. 10340) (1868) II. pr. vii. l. 1600 What atteineiþ fame to swiche folk whan þe body is resolued by þe deep atte þe last[e].
- a1450 *St. Katherine* (Richardson 44) (1884) 52 (*MED*), Þou haue power for a tyme to vse þy cruelte vppon my body, whyche..abydeth to be resolued in to dep.
- a1500 (‣c1477) T. NORTON *Ordinal of Alchemy* (BL Add.) (1975) 2296 (*MED*), Liquours departith qualitees a-sondyre, Substance resoluyng in attoms with wondire.
- 1533 J. BELLENDEN tr. Livy *Hist. Rome* (1901) I. I. xv. 85 Becaus þe stoupis and pillaris þareof war all of tre, they war haistelic brynt and resoluit in powder.
- 1577 B. GOOGE tr. C. Heresbach *Foure Bks. Husbandry* I. f. 17^v, A mellowe ground that is fatte, and wyll soone be resolued.
- 1579 T. LUPTON *Thousand Notable Things* II. 27 A flynt stone lying in Vineger the space of seuen dayes: maye be resolued into powder by rubbing betweene the fyngers.
- 1620 T. VENNER *Via Recta* iii. 52 They will too soon resolue the iuyce of lighter meats.
- 1633 BP. J. HALL *Plaine Explic. Hard Texts* I. 321 O ye my faithfull ones, who are now resolved to the very dust of the earth.
- 1667 T. VINCENT *Christ's Certain Appearance to Judgment* iv. 17 The flesh is consumed, and resolved into its first elements.

- 1727 P. SHAW & E. CHAMBERS tr. H. Boerhaave *New Method Chem.* 177/1 The common doctrine., that the different substances into which mix'd bodies are commonly resolved by fire, are not of pure and elementary nature.
- 1776 T. BOWDEN *Farmer's Director* 18 By the assistance of alternate rain and drought, to resolve and break the hard clods.
- 1838 T. THOMSON *Chem. Org. Bodies* 54 When malic acid is distilled at the temperature of 349°, it is resolved into water, and two pyro-acids, which are isomeric.
- 1891 *Spectator* 4 July 5/2 A..campaign intended to break up Italy, or to resolve the German Empire back again into its elements.
- 1931 A. D. HALL *Soil* (ed. 4) ii. 48 Repeatedly kneading and working it [sc. clay], by which process the naturally formed aggregates are resolved into their ultimate particles.
- 1945 R. A. KNOX *God & Atom* i. 13 It might be possible..to resolve the molecule into its component parts, but beyond that lay something smaller yet, completely indivisible.
- 1989 *Hobart Mercury* (Nexis) 10 Jan., The polysaccharide plastic can be resolved into soil in one to 12 months, depending on its ingredients.
- 2005 D. J. DAVIES & L. H. MATES *Encycl. Cremation* 327/2 The cremationists..argued..that cremation merely resolved the body into its constituent elements.

(b) *intr.* Usu. with *into* (formerly also *†to*). Of a material thing: to undergo dissolution or separation into constituent parts or elements, or into a more basic or fundamental state; to decompose; to disintegrate.

Also *fig.*

- a1500 (∗?a1425) tr. *Secreta Secret.* (Lamb.) 68 (MED), Mannys body, þat ys takynge mete and drynke, continuely er diminissed and resoluyn aʒeyn, als wel þe bodyes þat ressayuen als þe mete and þe drynke ressayued.
- 1509 J. FISHER *Mornyng Remembraunce Countesse of Rychemonde* (de Worde) sig. Biii^v, Fyrst it [sc. the body] anone begynneth to putrefye & resoluē in to foule corrupcyon.
- 1589 R. GREENE *Menaphon* sig. F4^v, Pleusidippus eyes at this speach resolved into fire.
- 1648 R. SANDERSON *Serm.* II. 245 As soon as touched..[they] resolve all into dust and smoak.
- a1657 G. DANIEL *Trinarchodia: Henry IV* lxxvii, in *Poems* (1878) IV. 20 This Insect..Resolues to dirt againe in the next Storme.
- 1674 *Philos. Trans.* (Royal Soc.) 9 4 They [sc. leaves] will soon become very hot..and after a few days resolve into a pappy substance.
- 1716 POPE tr. Homer *Iliad* II. VII. 113 Go then! resolve to Earth from whence ye grew.
- 1787 G. ADAMS *Ess. Microscope* 462 The several species of microscopic animals may subside, resolve again into gelatinous filaments, and again give lesser animals.
- 1820 *Edinb. Encycl.* (1830) XIV. 138/1 The iron..becomes dry and brittle, resolves into grains, and refuses to cohere or extend under the hammer.
- 1878 M. A. BROWN tr. J. L. Runeberg *Nadeschda* 66 The marble then In transformation dire into speech resolved.
- 1916 *Lancet* 8 July 67/1 The proteins do not all alike resolve into the same amino-acids.
- 1976 *Compar. Biochem. & Physiol.* B. 54 434/2 The haemolysates of both plaice and flounder resolve into several components during isoelectric focusing.
- 2004 G. J. H. GRUBBEN & O. A. DENTON *Plant Resources Trop. Afr.* II. 273/2 When cooked the flesh of

mature fruits resolves into thin strands which look like spaghetti.

(c) *trans. (refl.)* in same sense. Now *rare*.

- 1812 *Q. Rev.* Sept. 30 The whole fabric [of the ship] resolves itself into its constituent parts, scarcely any two of them remaining in adhesion.
- 1851 W. B. CARPENTER *Man. Physiol.* (ed. 2) 487 The first change..in the Mammalian ovum, is the 'segmentation' of the yolk; the entire mass of which..resolves itself..into..segments.
- 1905 *Bot. Gaz.* **40** 88 This vesicle..resolves itself into fibers.
- 1937 C. D. DARLINGTON *Rec. Adv. in Cytol.* (ed. 2) i. 22 The characteristic process of mitosis in the course of which the whole nucleus, apart from the nucleoli, resolves itself into longitudinally split threads, the chromosomes.

†**b. trans.** To produce (a substance) by disintegration or decomposition;
esp. to cause (smoke or vapour) to be given off from something. *Obs.*

- ▶ a1398 J. TREVISA tr. Bartholomaeus Anglicus *De Proprietatibus Rerum* (BL Add. 27944) (1975) I. x. x. 565 Asken..is gendrid and resolued [L. *resolutus*] of substaunce of erþy matiere by strengþe of hete.
- ▶ a1398 J. TREVISA tr. Bartholomaeus Anglicus *De Proprietatibus Rerum* (BL Add. 27944) (1975) II. XVII. ii. 892 More smal and sotil smoke is resolued of þe male [tree] þan of þe femel.
- c1425 tr. J. Arderne *Treat. Fistula* (Sloane 6) 59 (*MED*), Of rawnes of digestion is þe vryne discolored, And it appereþ with poudry resolucions which bene resolued of malencolious blode.
- a1475 in *Neuphilol. Mitteilungen* (1957) **58** 61 (*MED*), The son and other sterrys, sendyng ther beemys unto the erthe and water, resolveth of and pulleþe fro the erthe diverse vapores.
- a1500 (▶ c1477) T. NORTON *Ordinal of Alchemy* (BL Add.) (1975) l. 1973 (*MED*), Odour is a smokish vapour resoluyd with hete Owte of a substance bi a Invisible swete.

9. trans.

a.

(a) To reduce (a subject, statement, phenomenon, etc.) by analysis *into* more elementary forms, principles, etc.; to consider or demonstrate (something) to be divisible or analysable *into*. Formerly also with †*in*.

- ▶ a1398 J. TREVISA tr. Bartholomaeus Anglicus *De Proprietatibus Rerum* (BL Add.) f. 329^v, Þe triangle may nouȝt be so y-deled in oþre figures than triangles in þis wise..þat oþere figures beþ resolued and deled in triangles.
- a1450 (▶ a1397) *Prol. Old Test.* in *Bible* (Wycliffite, L.V.) (Cambr. Mm. II. 15) (1850) xv. 57 An ablatif case absolute may be resoluid into these thre wordis.
- 1570 H. BILLINGSLEY tr. Euclid *Elements Geom.* I. f. 41^v, Euery right lined figure is resolued in two triangles.
- 1628 T. SPENCER *Art of Logick* 284 When the causes doe argue the effect, the effect is resolued into the causes.
- a1674 LD. CLARENDON *Surv. Leviathan* (1676) 8 He resolv'd all Wisdom and Religion itself into a

simple obedience and submission to it.

- 1719 D. DEFOE *Life Robinson Crusoe* 237 After I had entertain'd these Notions, and by long musing, had as it were resolved them all into nothing.
- 1774 T. PENNANT *Tour Scotl.* 1772 233, I was for resolving this phænomenon into Ship-wrecks.
- 1841–8 F. MYERS *Catholic Thoughts* II. IV. §2. 184 Why may we not..resolve Christianity into a system of practical Morality?
- 1871 B. JOWETT in tr. Plato *Dialogues* III. 335 All sensation is to be resolved into a similar combination of an agent and patient.
- 1916 J. E. BOODIN *Realistic Universe* ii. 20 We cannot resolve reality, whether conscious or unconscious, into bundles of perception, or into experience of any form, altogether.
- 1958 J. S. HINES tr. A. Mathiot *Brit. Polit. Syst.* I. ii. 88 Such an issue can be resolved into a simple choice between two parties.
- 2003 *Jrnl. Paleontol.* 77 1088/1 The distribution of living corbulid genera can be resolved into three broad biogeographic regions.

(b) *refl.* Of a subject, statement, etc.: to be susceptible of such reduction or analysis.

- 1739 D. HUME *Treat. Human Nature* I. I. 11 All the perceptions of the human mind resolve themselves into two distinct kinds, which I shall call Impressions and Ideas.
- 1814 T. CHALMERS *Evid. Christian Revel.* ii. 46 The argument..resolves itself into four parts.
- 1879 J. LUBBOCK *Addr. Polit. & Educ.* iii. 44 His complaint resolves itself into two parts.
- 1904 *Athenæum* 9 Apr. 464/3, I find..upon making a careful stichometrical analysis of the Libellus, that it resolves itself into thirty-eight sections.
- 1956 *Shakespeare Q.* 7 387 It will be seen from the above printing that the song resolves itself into five sections.
- 2001 D. KEPPEL-JONES *Strict Metrical Trad.* 26 Rhythm tends to resolve itself into three aspects.

b. To reduce or convert (a quantity) *into* specified units. Now *rare*.

- ?a1560 L. DIGGES *Geom. Pract.: Pantometria* (1571) I. xxi. sig. G j^v, Then resolue 20 foote into inches.
- 1669 S. STURMY *Mariners Mag.* II. vi. 66 The Degrees resolved into Hours and Minutes, is 1 Hour 49 Min.
- a1687 W. PETTY *Polit. Anat. Ireland* (1691) 352 The victuals.., resolved into money, may be estimated 3s. 6d. per week.
- a1803 R. CHAMBERS *Treat. Estates & Tenures* (1824) vi. 189 The reliefs in earlier times..were paid in horses, and arms, and habiliments of war: but these, like other things, were in time resolved into money.
- 1873 *Amer. Educ. Monthly* May 193 This day.., if resolved into minutes, and divided by 365, will give the four minutes difference between solar and sidereal time.
- 1908 *Strand Mag.* Oct. 440/1 Eighteen thousand francs is not a large sum when resolved into pounds, shillings, and pence.
- 1938 *Navy Dept. Appropriation Bill: Hearings before House Appropriations Comm.* (75th U.S. Congr., 3rd Sess.) 207, I should like to have that resolved into dollars and cents... The cost..is \$1,713.88.

†**c.** To analyse, examine (a statement). *Obs. rare.*

- 1593 R. HOOKER *Of Lawes Eccl. Politie* II. vii. 120 Examine, sift, and resolute their alleaged proofes, till you come to the very roote..whence they springe.
- 1599 tr. A. Munday *Treat. Vertue of Crosse* sig. C4^v, These matters first heere noted, haue vrged vs to resolute such allegations, as are contayned in the first placard.

10.

a.

(a) *trans.* To convert, transform, alter, render (a material or immaterial thing) *into* some other thing or form. Formerly also with †*to*. Also *fig.*

- a1450 (▷ a1397) *Prol. Old Test.* in *Bible (Wycliffite, L.V.)* (Cambr. Mm. II. 15) (1850) xv. 57 A participle of a present tens..mai be resoluid into a verbe of the same tens, and a coniunccioun copulatif, as thus..*seyynge*, mai be resoluid thus, *and seith*, eithir *that seith*.
- a1538 T. STARKEY *Dial. Pole & Lupset* (1989) 11 Yf ther be any cyvyle law ordeynyd wych can not be resolvyd therto, hyt ys of no value.
- 1565 N. SANDERS *Supper of Our Lord* IV. f. 196, The cause why the verb *est* should be resolved into the verb *significat*, must nedes come from the word *corpus* body.
- 1591 R. WILMOT *Tancred & Gismund* II. iii. sig. C2^v, A resolution that resolves my bloud Into the Ice-sie drops of Lethes flood.
- a1616 SHAKESPEARE *Timon of Athens* (1623) IV. iii. 441 The Seas a Theefe, whose liquid Surge, resolves The Moone into Salt teares.
- a1623 H. SWINBURNE *Treat. Spousals* (1686) 27 By the same means..are those Spousals by them contracted in their Minority..resolved or turned into Matrimony.
- 1674 R. BAXTER *Full & Easie Satisfaction* IV. vii. 127 All their faith of this [*sc.* the doctrine of transubstantiation] is by them resolved into a phanatick pretence of Inspiration.
- 1743 M. TOMLINSON *Protest. Birthright* 13 Into whose Authority all Christians have resolved their Faith and Obedience.
- 1750 J. CAMPBELL *Present State Europe* x. 281 A very large Proportion of the Debt was, if not paid, at least resolved into Waste Paper.
- 1861 DICKENS *Great Expectations* III. v. 84 The spectral figure..seemed all resolved into a ghastly stare.
- 1875 E. C. STEDMAN *Victorian Poets* 387 The succeeding chorus..resolves attention to enchantment.
- 1889 *Standard* 9 Apr., Emin..has seen islands resolved into headlands.
- 1933 *Mod. Psychologist* Nov. 247 Old mind-sets have to be resolved into a hospitable flexibility in order that new attitudes and expectancies may be formed.
- 1951 A. SCHWARZSCHILD tr. R. Luxemburg *Accumulation of Capital* ii. 55 Referring each private capital unit to its place of production in order to resolve it into a mere product of labour.
- 2007 D. CLARKE in P. Cheney *Cambr. Compan. Shakespeare's Poetry* x. 193 Her suffering has been resolved into narrative, as she retells her rape.

(b) *intr.* With *into* or (now less commonly) *to*. Of an immaterial thing: to

change or be transformed into some other form or state; *esp.* to be susceptible of being interpreted as some other thing. Formerly also with †*in*.

- 1598 R. BARCKLEY *Disc. Felicitie of Man* v. 393 It resolveth into this inconvenience, that the covetousnes of one wicked man is satisfied by the prejudice of a whole nation.
- 1647 BP. J. TAYLOR *Θεολογία Εκλεκτική* II. 30 The whole businesse of submitting our understanding to humane authority, comes to nothing; for either it resolves into the direct duty of submitting to God, or if it be spoken of abstractedly, it is no duty at all.
- 1679 DRYDEN *Troilus & Cressida* I. i. 2 Then every thing resolves to brutal force And headlong force is led by hoodwink'd will.
- 1711 LD. SHAFTESBURY *Characteristicks* (1737) II. III. i. 345, I..celebrate the Beautys which resolve in Thee, the Source..of all Perfection.
- 1752 D. HUME *Balance of Trade* in *Ess.* (1817) I. 315 These cases, when examined, will be found to resolve into our general theory.
- 1819 SCOTT *Bride of Lammermoor* ii, in *Tales of my Landlord* 3rd Ser. II. 32 It would resolve into an equitable claim.
- 1877 G. MEREDITH in *New Q. Mag.* Apr. 20 The Comedy might be performed by a troop of the corps de ballet; and in the recollection of the reading it resolves to an animated shuffle of feet.
- 1955 R. GRAVES *Crowning Privilege* 227 Each scowl resolves into a leer.
- 1995 I. DUNCAN in A. Conan Doyle *Lost World* (1998) p. xix, It is at that moment..that Malone resolves into a murderous, alien, yet organic and original self.

(c) *trans. (refl.)* in same sense.

- 1840 *U.S. Mag. & Democratic Rev.* Jan. 24 The *quasi* discords of Sappho's melodized passion—still recurring, and still resolving themselves into music.
- 1856 C. J. LEVER *Martins of Cro' Martin* xxiii, All resolves itself to some question of a harm to one side.
- 1920 W. T. TILDEN *Art of Lawn Tennis* 67 Match play..resolves itself into a battle of wits and nerve.
- 1928 *Amer. Mercury* Oct. 180/1 Consequently, between the violent outrushing of the Holy Spirit and the bad acoustics, the service is apt to resolve itself into one vast gr-r-r-r-r-r.
- 1976 *Times* 26 Jan. 6/7 It was a pity that a match which reached such a high pitch of excitement should have resolved itself into a trial by ordeal.
- 2000 M. RICKARDS *Encycl. Ephemera* (2001) 244/1 In many cases the matter resolved itself into a dispute between one parish and another.

b. trans. (refl.). Of a deliberative body, meeting, etc.: to convert itself *into* a committee for some particular purpose. Also in *pass.* and *intr.* in same sense.

- 1641 S. D'EWES *Speech Commons, July 7th* (title-page), Being resolved into a committee, (so neer as it could be collected together) in the Palatine cause.
- 1654 T. FULLER *Ephemeris Parliamentaria* 240 Let us be resolved into a Committee, and presently fall

to debate thereof.

- 1659 S. BUTLER *Acts & Monuments Late Parl.* 5 Thereupon the house resolved into a grand Committee to debate the proportioning of the said lands to the particular members.
- 1710 *London Gaz.* No. 4699/3, The House resolved it self into a Committee of the whole House.
- 1753 *Scots Mag.* Aug. 388/2 The house having resolved itself into a committee of the whole house upon the..bill.
- 1828 tr. A.-J.-M.-R. Savary *Mem.* I. II. v. 43 The commission resolved itself into a council to deliberate.
- 1885 *Manch. Examiner* 7 Oct. 5/3 The meeting unanimously resolved itself into a committee.
- 1902 *Jrnl. Polit. Econ.* **10** 414 A formal motion to the effect that on a certain day the house will resolve itself into a committee to consider the supply to be granted to His Majesty.
- 1977 *S. Central Bull.* **37** 12/1 Professor Werbow moved that the executive committee resolve into a committee of the whole to discuss a matter of general welfare.
- 1995 *Sunday Mail (Queensland)* (Nexis) 24 Sept., The use of a council local law on meeting procedure might allow it to resolve itself into a committee to allow the consideration of a secret ballot.

11.

a. trans. and intr. Math. To analyse (a force or other vector quantity) into two or more components acting in different directions but collectively having the same effect as the original vector. Cf. RESOLUTION *n.*¹ 10.

- 1719 G. GORDON *Remarks Newtonian Philos.* 13 All that can here be inferred is, that the actual Motion of the Body in the Line *bc*, may be resolved into the Forces *bf* and *bg*; but then it may as well be resolved into *bf*, *bo* and *br*.
- 1781 *Philos. Trans.* 1780 (Royal Soc.) **70** 559 Let FD..represent the force communicating the motion at the point D, which resolve into two others.
- 1806 O. G. GREGORY *Treat. Mech.* I. I. ii. 24 Resolve each of the forces into components respectively parallel to these co-ordinates.
- 1852 J. B. PHEAR *Elem. Hydrostatics* v. 89 Hence, resolving along *cO* and in a plane perpendicular to it, we have [etc.].
- 1909 W. H. P. CREIGHTON *Steam-engine & Other Heat-motors* (ed. 2) xv. 452 Resolve these velocities along the line of motion of the bucket.
- 1948 *Sci. News* **7** 23 In aerodynamics it is customary to resolve the reaction of the air on a surface into two components, namely lift..and drag.
- 1956 W. MERCHANT & A. BOLTON *Introd. Theory Structures* i. 11 Find the size and position of the resultant force *R* acting on the lamina. Resolving vertically, $V = 4 - 2 = 2$ lb.
- 2005 B. J. NELSON et al. in P. Dario & R. Chatila *Robotics Res.* III. 120 Capacitors are orthogonally configured to make the force sensor capable of resolving forces in both the *x* and *y* directions.

b. trans. Science. To analyse (a phenomenon, esp. a wave motion) into components which when added together give that phenomenon. Cf. *Fourier analysis* at FOURIER *n.*

- 1873 *Med. Times & Gaz.* 4 Oct. 396/1 This wave the ear can resolve into its component parts.

- 1894 *Proc. Physical Soc.* **13** 94 It was most useful to resolve the motion into its fundamental harmonic motions and its overtones.
- 1936 R. S. GLASGOW *Princ. Radio Engin.* i. 22 The flat-topped wave of Fig. 16a and the peaked wave of Fig. 16b may be resolved into a fundamental and third harmonic.
- 1965 *Math. in Biol. & Med.* (Med. Res. Council) I. 38 Figure 3 shows how an analogue computer is used to resolve such a curve into its components.
- 2005 *Proc. National Acad. Sci. U.S.A.* **102** 13928/1 To resolve the early phases of the isotonic velocity transient, the acquisition rate was 200 kHz.

12. Music.

a. trans. To alter or transform (a discord, or relatively dissonant harmony) so as to form a concord, or relatively more consonant harmony.

Cf. RESOLUTION *n.*¹ 9b.

- 1728 E. CHAMBERS *Cycl. at Discord*, The Discord is resolved by being immediately succeeded by a Concord.
- 1797 *Encycl. Brit.* XVI. 125/1 There is no possible manner of resolving a dissonance which is not derived from an operation of cadence.
- 1838 *Penny Cycl.* XII. 50/1 Most discords require to be prepared, and all must be resolved.
- 1868 F. A. G. OUSELEY *Harmony* (1875) ii. 20 When the discords have thus been rendered agreeable to the ear, they are said to be resolved.
- 1924 *Musical Times* Feb. 132/2 If we resolve the dominant chord at the double-bar on page 5, it makes a complete movement in itself.
- 2003 L. BLACK *Franz Schubert* 31 The root of the dominant-seventh chord..is not actually heard in the crucial chord.., though it is there again in the upper part immediately the dissonance is resolved.

b. intr. Of a discord or relatively dissonant harmony: to undergo such a transformation. Of a note: to effect such a transformation by passing to another note. Freq. with *on to* or *upon*.

- 1825 J. F. DANNELEY *Encycl. Music*, The seventh and ninth are dissonant, and therefore resolve or descend one degree.
- 1878 *Johnson's New Universal Cycl.* III. 683/1 A seventh, instead of resolving into the perfect triad, may be succeeded by another seventh.
- 1889 E. PROUT *Harmony* xiv. §332 All chords of the ninth can resolve upon their own generator.
- 1942 *Music & Lett.* **23** 20 In the middle parts there is an F persisting which only resolves on to E \flat on the final two notes.
- 1989 P. VAN DER MERWE *Origins Pop. Style* (1992) xx. 173 Typically these blue sevenths..fall to the dominant, resolving onto the dominant in much the same way as the blue third resolves onto the tonic.
- 2006 *Daily Tel.* (Nexis) 17 June 4 Basically, Wagner sounds a chord at the beginning and it never resolves until the very end.

13.

a. trans. Science. Originally: (of optical instruments or persons using them) to reveal or perceive (a nebula) as a cluster of distinct stars. Later more widely: to distinguish parts or components of (something) that are close together in space or time; to identify or distinguish individually (peaks in a graph, lines in a spectrum, etc.). Cf. RESOLUTION *n.*¹ 6.

- 1785 *Philos. Trans.* (Royal Soc.) **75** 219 When he resolves one nebula into stars, he discovers ten new ones which he cannot resolve.
- 1833 *London & Edinb. Philos. Mag.* **2** 338 These small brown moths possess very delicate and unique scales, requiring some tact in the management of the illumination, to resolve their lines distinctly.
- 1868 J. N. LOCKYER *Elem. Lessons Astron.* §77 Star-clusters..so distant that even in telescopes of great power they could not be resolved.
- 1932 *Proc. Royal Soc. A.* **136** 313 Two particles separated by as little as 1/500th second could be 'resolved' and correctly recorded.
- 1962 H. D. BUSH *Atomic & Nucl. Physics* iii. 58 If the fine structure is examined with the aid of very high resolution instruments, each component of the fine structure is resolved into further components.
- 2001 N. J. LANE in R. Catlow & S. Greenfield *Cosmic Rays* 73 The light microscope was unable to resolve detail much below 0.2µm.

b. intr. and trans. (refl.). With *into*. Of an object initially perceived indistinctly: to become identifiable, esp. as a number of discrete objects, when seen more clearly. Also in extended use.

- 1825 R. TAYLOR *Key to Knowl. Nature* iv. 78 Many of the stars which appear single to the naked eye, on the application of the telescope, resolve themselves into two or more.
- 1853 L. SUNDERLAND *Bk. Human Nature* 42 Were we to look at our solar system from myriad millions of miles, it would appear to us a conglobated or solid mass... But when we near it, it resolves into planets and satellites.
- 1890 K. MUNROE *Under Orders* v. 67 As he rounded a corner this noise resolved itself into the shouts, cheers, and yells of an angry mob.
- 1897 *Yale Literary Mag.* Oct. 35 It resolved into a black speck and a white one.
- 1921 *National Geographic Mag.* Mar. 269/1 A minute object that separated into two as we drew nearer, and finally resolved itself into a pair of vessels linked together with a tow-line.
- 1985 *Pop. Sci.* Feb. 70/1 As the distance closes, the pod resolves into a trio of connected cylinders, each larger than a tour bus.
- 1992 F. KEMSKE *Lifetime Employm.* xii. 161 The faint cracking sound resolved itself into the din of a half dozen different kinds of firearm being discharged repeatedly.
- 2002 A. PROULX *That Old Ace in Hole* (2003) i. 3 There appeared, far ahead..a wambling black dot that resolved into a bicyclist.

14. trans. Chem. To separate (a racemic compound or mixture) into

optical isomers.

- 1899 J. McCRAE tr. H. Landolt *Optical Activity & Chem. Composition* 90 Fermentation lactic acid in the form of its zinc ammonium salt..has been resolved [Ger. *zerfällt*] by crystallisation into the *d*- and *l*-lactates.
- 1919 S. W. COLE *Pract. Physiol. Chem.* (ed. 5) v. 151 Equal parts of the *d*- and *l*- varieties are formed. These can often be resolved into their active constituents.
- 1983 R. O. C. NORMAN & D. J. WADDINGTON *Mod. Org. Chem.* (ed. 4) xv. 245 Racemic mixtures which are not acids or bases can often be resolved by first making them into derivatives with acid groups.
- 2001 J. S. VARCOE *Clin. Biochem.* xi. 16 Chiral additives can be included in the buffer to resolve stereo isomers.

15. trans. Computing. To translate (a readable, alphanumeric domain name) into a numerical IP address, typically by means of the domain name system. Also: to identify (the IP address) of a particular domain name. Cf. RESOLVER *n.* 5.

- 1983 P. MOCKAPETRIS *Request for Comments* (Network Working Group) (Electronic text) No. 882. 15 These name servers..must resolve names for at least all the hosts in the domain.
- 1993 *InfoWorld* (Nexis) 25 Oct. 65 We noticed we were unable to use our host's file to resolve IP addresses. Another call to technical support.
- 2003 B. KOMAR et al. *Firewalls for Dummies* (ed. 2) x. 175 Type the Web site name in the address bar of the Web browser. This name is resolved to the IP address of the Web site with the help of DNS servers.

III. To untie; to answer, solve; to decide, determine.

16. trans. To untie, unbind, loosen; to release (something) from its bonds (*lit.* and *fig.*); (perh.) to disentangle.

In later use only in figurative contexts with reference to knots.

- a1398 J. TREVISA tr. Bartholomaeus Anglicus *De Proprietatibus Rerum* (BL Add. 27944) (1975) I. III. xxii. 123 ȝif þis spirit ben apeired and ihurt and ilette of here worchinge..þe acord of þe body and soule is resolved.
- a1398 J. TREVISA tr. Bartholomaeus Anglicus *De Proprietatibus Rerum* (BL Add. 27944) (1975) I. XI. iii. 574 Þe west wynd..resolueþ and vnbindiþ wyntir and bringiþ for[þ] gras, herbis, and floures.
- c1450 (◦ 1410) J. WALTON tr. Boethius *De Consol. Philos.* (Linc. Cathedral 103) 204 (*MED*), Youre resouns weyuen [y]e so wondirly In maner like þe hous of Dydalus Full hard for to resoluen and vnplye [L. *inextricabilem labyrinthum rationibus texens*].
- ?1518 A. BARCLAY tr. D. Mancinus *Myrrour Good Maners* sig. B.iv^v, Thy wyttes to apply To resolue or argue: with wordes superflue The knottes intrycate, of bablynge sophystry.
- 1558 T. PHAER tr. Virgil *Seuen First Bks. Eneidos* VII. 155 Resolue [L. *solvite*] your heades attyre, & celebrate this daunce with me.
- 1591 H. SMITH *Treat. Lords Supper* I. 26 Resolue this knot & al is cleere.

- 1610 *Bible* (Douay) II. Dan. v. 16 Thou canst interpret obscure thinges, and resolue [L. *dissolvere*] thinges bound.
- a1637 B. JONSON *Magnetick Lady* IV. viii. 51 in *Wks.* (1640) III, What deserves he In your opinion, Madam..can resolve the knot?
- 1776 J. BERINGTON *Lett. Materialism* ii. 30 He..resolves the knot, by asking another question.
- 1844 *N. Brit. Rev.* May 132 A true philosophy..resolves the knot when it is most perplexed.
- 1881 T. WOOLNER *Pygmalion* VI. 89 You..Tend to resolve all tangles by the stroke Of steel.
- 1936 E. FITZGERALD tr. F. Mehring *Karl Marx* iii. 65 In the one case it is a question of resolving the knot, and in the other one of first tying it.
- 2005 *Windsor* (Ont.) *Star* (Nexis) 29 Dec. B4 Perhaps he can unravel and resolve some of the emotional knots that leave him so tied up that he cannot be successful.

17. trans.

a.

(a) To answer (a question); to solve (a problem of any kind); to determine, settle, or decide upon (a point or matter regarding which there is doubt or dispute). Formerly also: †to make an effective response to (a proposition, argument, etc.) (*obs.*). Also *refl.*

Sometimes with indirect question as object.

- a1438 *Bk. Margery Kempe* I. 35 (MED), Þe clerkys askyd þis creatur many hard qwestyons, þe wychsche be þe grace of Ihesu resoluyd, so þat hir answerys lykyd þe Bysshop rygth wel.
 - c1454 R. PECOCK *Folewer to Donet* 34 Þilke persoones whiche ben so lowþe and symple in witt, leernyng, and kunnyng þat þei not sufficen to resolue and brynge maters of philosophie in to her groundis of resoun.
- 1550 T. CRANMER *Def. Sacrament* IV. f. 94, S. Augustine, most plainly resolueth this matter in his booke., disputing against two kinds of heretiques.
- 1577 tr. St. Augustine in H. I. tr. H. Bullinger *50 Godlie Serm.* II. III. ix. sig. Oo.j^v/1, Mee thinketh therefore that this question can bee none otherwise resolved.
- 1581 J. BELL tr. W. Haddon & J. Foxe *Against Jerome Osorius* 212 Least he exclaime agayne that his argumentes are not throughly resolved, I will answere in few wordes.
- 1612 T. TAYLOR *Ἀρχὴν Ἀπάντων: Comm. Epist. Paul to Titus* (i. 9) 29 Resolving all doubtful cases.
- 1647 J. SPRIGGE *Anglia Rediviva* (1854) II. i. 72 This resolved the question at the council of war without putting it.
- 1661 J. DAVIES tr. D. Blondel *Treat. Sibyls* II. xi. 110 Does the Flaming Sword keep the entrance of Paradise against the Saints? But the Question resolves it self.
- 1704 SWIFT *Disc. Mech. Operat. Spirit* i, in *Tale of Tub* 284, I have been perplexed for some time, to resolve what would be the most proper Form to send it abroad in.
- 1749 H. FIELDING *Tom Jones* II. IV. xii. 87 Whether Mrs. Honour really deserved that Suspicion..is a Matter which we cannot indulge the Reader's Curiosity by resolving.
- 1750 JOHNSON *Rambler* No. 19. ¶15 After a great part of life spent in enquiries which can never be resolved.
- 1830 J. F. W. HERSCHEL *Prelim. Disc. Study Nat. Philos.* III. i. 221 We are called upon to resolve the important but complicated problem.
- 1858 D. BOUCICAULT *Pope of Rome* I. ii. 9 The business our friends are summoned hither to determine

will resolve the matter.

- 1941 *Astounding Sci.-Fiction* Feb. 115/2 Don't drive yourself crazy trying to resolve the paradoxes of time-travel.
- 1969 *Times* 15 Aug. 4/5 New studies designed to resolve how insulin works.
- 1980 J. CALDER *RLS* iii. 56 He reflected on the tricky problem of chastity, but could not resolve it.
- 2002 *New Yorker* 11 Nov. 78/3 Comedy theorists..have yet to resolve even such simple questions as where knock-knock jokes come from.

(b) With double object. Now *rare*.

- 1577 M. HANMER tr. Socrates Scholasticus in *Aunc. Eccl. Hist.* IV. xviii. 331, I muzed what to answer, and requested him to resolue me the doubt.
- 1594 SHAKESPEARE *Titus Andronicus* v. iii. 35 Resolue me this, Was it well done..To slay his daughter.
- 1706 R. ESTCOURT *Fair Example* I. i, Pray will you resolve me one Question?
- a1707 T. BROWN *Saints in Uproar* in *Wks.* (1707) I. 109 Resolve me a Question or two.
- 1786 E. INCHBALD *I'll tell you What* IV. i. 65 If you can resolve me that..I have no censure for you.
- 1819 SCOTT *Ivanhoe* III. x. 233 And how should my poor valour succeed, Sir Jester, when thy light wit halts?—resolve me that.
- 1862 *Church of People* Jan. 10 Perhaps so,—but first resolve me the question *in what does brutishness consist?*
- 1905 H. C. BEECHING *Let.* 30 Sept. in E. V. Lucas *Post-bag Diversions* (1934) 13 Now resolve me a question.
- 1946 L. DE LA TORRE *Dr. Sam: Johnson, Detector* 190 'Pray, Dr. Johnson,' said I, 'resolve me one thing. If the strange message was not Ogam, what was it?'

†b. To explain; to make clear. *Obs.*

- c1592 *Faire Em* sig. B2^v, In frendship then resolue What is the cause of your vnlookt for stay?
- 1633 J. FORD *'Tis Pitty shee's Whore* I. sig. B2^v, *Flo.* What's the ground? *Sor.* That with your patience Signiors, I'll resolue.
- a1661 T. FULLER *Worthies* (1662) Yorks. 206 Some resolve all his passion on a point of meer revenge.
- 1718 M. PRIOR *Solomon on Vanity* in *Poems Several Occasions* III. 838 The Man who would resolve the Work of Fate, May limit Number, and make Crooked Strait.
- 1821 WORDSWORTH *Eccl. Sonn.* I. xxix, The full-orbed Moon..doth appear Silently to consume the heavy clouds; *How* no one can resolve.
- 1866 H. BUSHNELL *Vicarious Sacrifice* Introd. 14 Attempts have been made, in all ages,..to assert what is called 'the moral view' of the atonement, and resolve it by the power it wieldis in human character.
- 1877 E. LEIGH *Gloss. Words Dial. Cheshire* 168 Au canna mak it out, yoe mun resolve it.

c. *Math.* To solve (a mathematical problem, esp. an equation); to find a simpler form of (an equation) from which a solution can be readily inferred. Cf. RESOLUTION *n.*¹ 14a(b).

- 1613 R. WITT (*title*) Arithmetically questions..briefly resolved.
- 1669 *Philos. Trans.* (Royal Soc.) **4** 934 Dr Wallis, who hath so excellently resolved..Cubick Æquations.
- 1685 J. WALLIS *Let.* 25 Apr. in R. Boyle *Corr.* (2001) VI. 115 A Question of Compound Interest, Resolved by Logarithms, at One Operation.
- 1737 tr. I. Newton *Treat. Method of Fluxions* 21, I then assume some Number for a and resolve this Equation.
- 1798 C. HUTTON *Course Math.* I. 240 All equations, in which there are two terms involving the unknown quantity..are resolved like quadratics, by completing the square.
- 1850 C. DAVIES *Logic & Utility Math.* 266 Every geometrical question can be solved, if we can resolve the corresponding algebraic equation.
- 1874 J. FICKLIN *Compl. Algebra* xiii. 240 Resolve the first member of the equation $x^2 + 73x + 780 = 0$ into two binomial factors. *Ans.* $(x + 60)(x + 13) = 0$.
- 1929 F. M. SAXELBY *Course Pract. Math.* (ed. 8) vi. 68 No general rule can be given for resolving an expression into factors.
- 1970 *Times* 16 June p. vii/2 The optimum development of so many schemes depends upon resolving a simultaneous equation where the unknowns are design, cost and return.
- 2007 *Desalination* **209** 302/1 We resolve the equation system by fixing parameters.

d. To settle (a dispute or argument); to reconcile opposing elements or tendencies within (a conflict, contradiction, etc.).

- 1875 *Pall Mall Gaz.* 7 Jan. 7/1 If, to resolve those conflicts, you should think it desirable..to arm the Executive Power with the right of appealing to the judgment of the country.
- 1901 *Times* 1 Feb. 3/6 He suggested that it be given to a tribunal to resolve the dispute which existed between Protestants and Roman Catholics.
- 1914 *Philos. Rev.* **23** 353 Plotinus's effort..to resolve the conflict between these two elements in his view, Dr. Fuller finds to be wholly futile.
- 1972 M. HALPERIN *Rise & Decline Fidel Castro* xxv. 280 A special mode of communication that permitted the two parties to conduct and resolve the quarrel in public without acknowledging the existence of the quarrel.
- 1988 *Engineer* 17 Mar. 7/1 British Coal is expected to meet the South of Scotland Electricity Board to try to resolve the stand-off over cheap coal imports.
- 2005 *Campaign* 22 July 21/4 Since this spat is more damaging to you than to him, he may not be all that keen to resolve it.

18. trans.

a. To remove, clear away, dispel (a doubt, uncertainty, or obscurity).

- 1548 *Hall's Union: Edward IV* f. cxci^v, All suche doubttes, were now shortly resolved and determined, and all feare of his doynge, wer clerely put vnder and extinct.
- ?a1560 L. DIGGES *Geom. Pract.: Pantometria* (1571) I. xix. sig. F ij, Small practize will resolve all doubttes.
- a1616 SHAKESPEARE *Henry VI, Pt. 3* (1623) IV. i. 132 But ere I goe, Hastings and Mountague, Resolue my doubt.

- 1643 SIR T. BROWNE *Religio Medici* (Authorized ed.) 48 Myself can shew a catalogue of Doubts which are not resolved at the first hearing.
- 1667 A. MARVELL *Let.* 2 Feb. in *Poems & Lett.* (1971) II. 54 If you find any thing perplex in it I shall..resolue any scruple that you may haue of its exposition.
- 1706 J. VANBRUGH *Mistake* II. i. 10 You must resolve one Doubt which often gives me great Disturbance.
- 1776 GIBBON *Decline & Fall* I. xvii. 464 He was frequently requested to resolve the doubts of inferior judges.
- 1817 J. MILL *Hist. Brit. India* II. IV. v. 165 All doubts might be resolved by the interrogation..of the commander.
- 1873 W. BLACK *Princess of Thule* xiii. 198 She had bravely resolved her doubts and made up her mind.
- 1939 *Chester (Pa.) Times* 22 Mar. 3/4 Such grim statistics resolve any lingering doubt as to the effectiveness of Russia's military power.
- 1991 *Times Educ. Suppl.* 22 Feb. 38/3 The encyclopaedist aims to resolve uncertainty, not to enjoy its multiple creative possibilities.
- 2008 P. MASTERSON *Sense of Creation* 110 Such observations..cannot be presumed to resolve the profoundly held misgivings of atheists about the existence..of God.

b. To dispel, allay, assuage (an emotion or feeling, as fear, curiosity, etc.).

- 1580 J. LYLY *Euphues & his Eng.* in *Euphues* (new ed.) f. 18^v, Your reply hath fully resolved that feare.
- a1626 W. ROWLEY *Birth of Merlin* (1662) sig. G4, Speak learned Merlin, and resolve my fears.
- 1635 J. REYNOLDS *Triumphs Gods Revenge* (new ed.) IV. xvii. 341 The patience of a little time, will shortly resolve our curiositie, whereunto these different affections will tend.
- 1723 J. ROBE *Fatal Legacy* v. 67 While yet I have remaining Life to hear thee, Resolve the Fears thy Words have rais'd within me.
- 1749 H. FIELDING *Tom Jones* III. VII. iii. 15 Indeed we cannot resolve his Curiosity as to this Point.
- 1833 W. J. NEALE *Port Admiral* III. xii. 243 She..ascended to the top of Maker Tower, anxious yet dreading to descry the approach of some vessel, which would resolve her fears.
- 1958 J. BETJEMAN *Coll. Poems* 278 The waltz was played, the songs were sung, The night resolved our fears.

†**19.** *trans. (refl.)*. To join oneself to a person's opinion. *Obs. rare*⁻¹.

- 1548 *Hall's Vnion: Henry VI* f. clxxxiiij, Therle of Salisbry and other his frendes, seing his corage, resolved themselves to his opinion.

†**20.** *trans.*

a. To free (a person) from doubt or perplexity; to bring to a clear understanding; to provide with definite information. *Obs.*

In quot. 1548 with the senses as object.

- 1548 E. GEST *Treat. againste Masse* sig. Biv^v, The broken bread and blessed wyne be institute

purposely to resolve and ascertain our senses.

- 1549 J. PONET *Def. Mariage Priestes* sig. Dviii^v, I haue wyshed that som learned man wold take the paynes to resolute the vnlearned sorte touchyng that poynt.
- 1596 W. LAMBARDE *Perambulation of Kent* (rev. ed.) 399 If you yet doubt, conferre (I pray you) his report with theirs, and it shall resolute you.
- a1616 SHAKESPEARE *Measure for Measure* (1623) IV. ii. 208 Yet you are amaz'd, but this shall absolutely resolute you.
- 1649 BP. J. TAYLOR *Great Exemplar* II. 98 To strengthen the weake, to resolute the scrupulous, to teach the ignorant.
- 1719 D. DEFOE *Life Robinson Crusoe* 356 We knew not what Course to take, but the Creatures resolv'd us soon.
- 1766 A. WILLIAMS tr. P. Metastasio *Uninhabited Island* vi, in *Misc.* 161 Whate'er it be, it has a pleasing form: My Sister shall resolve me.
- 1772 J. WESLEY *Jrnl.* 31 Oct., They asked me, 'whether they were good or bad spirits?' But I could not resolve them.

b. With *of* or *in* and complement expressing the matter of doubt. *Obs.*

- 1549 J. PONET tr. B. Ochino *Tragoedie Unjuste Usurped Primacie* sig. f.iii^v, I am also resolved nowe in another doubt, whereof I shoulde neuer haue ben answered yf ye had not made me perceyue it.
- 1549 J. PONET tr. B. Ochino *Tragoedie Unjuste Usurped Primacie* sig. y.ii, We haue sent for you..to resolute vs of a dout, that is come to our minde.
- 1567 *Reg. Privy Council Scotl.* I. 515 That thai being certifiit of the veritie may be resolvit of all doubt.
- ?1573 H. CHEKE tr. F. Negri *Freewyl* II. ii. 75, I haue ben desirous of long tyme to know it, and I could neuer meete with any whiche was able to resolute me in this poynt.
- 1597 T. MORLEY *Plaine & Easie Introd. Musicke* 4 If you remember that which before you tolde mee you vnderstood: you would resolute your selfe of that doubt.
- 1648 T. GAGE *Eng.-Amer.* 6 To resolve the Pope himself of whatsoever difficult points in Divinity may be questioned.
- 1651 N. CULPEPER *Semeiotica Uranica* sig. B3^v, I know you would be resolved in one particular.
- a1742 T. STORY *Jrnl. of Life* (1747) 212 Not knowing how we might afterwards be engaged, we did not resolve him in that Point.
- 1767 'CORIAT JUNIOR' *Another Traveller!* II. 23 You may ask whatever questions you please, and you shall be resolved of everything within my power.

c. With indirect question as complement. *Obs.* (in later use passing into sense 23b).

- 1565 J. JEWEL *Replie Hardinges Answere* i. 18 Concerning Consecration, he doth greate wronge to charge vs with ye breache thereof, before he him selfe and others of his side be better resolved wherein standeth Consecration.
- 1595 SHAKESPEARE *Henry VI, Pt. 3* II. i. 9, I cannot ioy vntil I be resolu'de, Where our right valiant father is become.
- a1648 LD. HERBERT *Life Henry VIII* (1649) 520 He sent to Spain to be resolved..which of the two

Marriages were most convenient.

- 1690 J. LOCKE *Two Treat. Govt.* I. xi. §147 It will always remain a Doubt..till our A. resolves us, whether Shem..had right to Govern.
- 1720 D. DEFOE *Capt. Singleton* 273 Whether we..may come off any better..I cannot resolve thee.
- 1756 G. WASHINGTON *Let.* in *Writings* (1889) I. 253, I wish your Honor would resolve me, whether the militia..must be supplied out of the public stocks of provisions.

†**21.** *trans.*

a. To come to a conclusion about, settle in one's mind, be sure of. Also with clause or infinitive as object. *Obs.*

- c1565 'T. C.' tr. Boccaccio *Galesus Cymon & Iphigenia* sig. A.vi^v, Her Heere, like goulden wyre, he painted foorth with praise, And fully was resolved in minde, they shonne as Phebvs rayes.
- a1618 W. RALEIGH *Remains* (1644) 237 He left me so weak that he resolved not to find me alive.
- 1659 T. BURTON *Diary* (1828) IV. 55, I was some days since to seek what to resolve in this great debate.
- 1702 J. LOGAN in *Mem. Hist. Soc. Pennsylvania* (1870) IX. 122 Having solicitously resolved several things in my thoughts relating to it, I endeavoured to stave them off.

b. With object complement: to be certain that (a person or thing) is what is specified; (also) to show conclusively to be of a certain character. *Obs.*
rare.

- 1613 J. STEPHENS *Cinthias Reuenge* v. vi. sig. R^v, I (Madam) will remoue the deere suspence Of question..And so resolute you a whore absolute.
- 1616 B. JONSON *Epicæne* IV. v, in *Wks.* I. 579 But he looses no reputation with vs, for we all resolu'd him an asse before.
- 1625 R. MONTAGU *Appello Cæsarem* 2 All things..so Delivered..are Errors actuall in themselves; and so stand resolved and accounted of in the Doctrine of the Church.

c. To fix upon (a person) *for* a particular purpose. *Obs.* *rare*⁻¹.

- 1710 D. MANLEY *Mem. Europe* I. III. 358 She had..resolved him for her peculiar Pleasures, tho' she knew not what way to compass what she had resolved.

†**22.**

a. *trans.* Chiefly with *of* or *that*. To convince or assure (a person) that something is the case. *Obs.*

- 1567 G. FENTON tr. M. Bandello *Certaine Tragical Disc.* i. f. 13, Being at larg resolved of that which you haue hard by speciall reporte [he] went imediatlye to his chamber [Fr. *Ayant ouy ceste histoire*; It. *Anselmo hebbe inteso il periglio oue Carlo si trouaua*].
- 1567 T. STAPLETON *Counterblast* f. 473, M. Horn..goeth roundlye to the matter, and resolueth vs, that

this Decree was made not by the Apostles only.

- 1590 E. WEBBE *Rare & Wonderful Things* To Rdr., They doubtles will resolute them that it is true which is here expressed.
- a1604 M. HANMER *Chron. Ireland* 159 in J. Ware *Two Hist. Ireland* (1633) , This Lacy behaved himselfe so discreetly..that the King was resolved of his truth and fidelity.
- a1616 SHAKESPEARE *Henry VI, Pt. 1* (1623) III. viii. 20 Long since we were resolved of your truth.
- 1642 D. ROGERS *Naaman* 830 It is said of Hanna, that ere Eli had resolved her from God of a sonne, shee was full of trouble.
- 1650 R. STAPYLTON tr. F. Strada *De Bello Belgico* VIII. 30 And, when they resolved him no danger should accrue to either [etc.].
- 1726 W. R. CHETWOOD *Voy. Capt. Boyle* 258 The Colonel resolv'd me that he had the Means in his own Hands to pacify him.
- 1736 H. FIELDING *Tumble-down Dick* Argt. sig. Aiv, She advises him to go to the Round-House,..and there be resolved from his own Mouth of the Truth of his Sire.

b. trans. (refl.). To assure, satisfy, or convince oneself in regard to something. Also: to be assured, know with certainty (freq. in *imper.*). *Obs.*

- 1567 W. PAINTER *Palace of Pleasure* II. xxv. f. 223^v, Rhomeo, thou must fully resolute thy selfe vpon one of these .ij. points.
- 1585 T. BILSON *True Difference Christian Subiection* I. 139 You shall thereby resolute your selfe howe farre Princes then lawfully might, and carefully did medle with guiding and ruling the Church of God.
- 1587 A. FLEMING et al. *Holinshed's Chron.* (new ed.) III. Contin. 1351/1 Resolute your selfe my lord, you haue a goodlie soule.
- 1593 T. LODGE *Life & Death William Long Beard* C 3 In youth be true, and then in age resolve thee, Friends will be friends.
- a1618 W. RALEIGH *Remains* (1644) 237 If I live to return, resolve your self that it is the care for you that hath strengthened my heart.
- 1657 S. PURCHAS *Theatre Flying-insects* 74 If you taste it, you will easily resolve your self.
- 1692 G. DANIEL *Voy. World Cartesius* I. 39 Settle and compose your self, for you seem a little disturb'd: And resolve your self you need not fear, and that you shall receive no harm.
- 1707 D. MANLEY *Almyna* I. i. 9 Soon resolve your self, he is a Lover, But with that Duty, to his Royal Brother, As without his permission, not to hope.
- 1710 LD. SHAFTESBURY *Characteristicks* (1737) II. II. iii. 276 We apprehend a larger Scheme, and easily resolve our-selves why Things were not completed in this State.
- 1814 H. F. CARY tr. Dante *Paradiso* XXVIII. 7 [As one who] turneth to resolve him, if the glass Have told him true.
- 1830 E. BULWER-LYTTON *Paul Clifford* II. i. 32 Could he do so? Umph! No, I have resolved myself, that is impossible.
- 1869 E. M. GOULBURN *Pursuit Holiness* vi. 48 He must resolve himself on the question.

c. intr. To be satisfied, certain, or convinced. *Obs.*

- 1585 T. WASHINGTON tr. N. de Nicolay *Nauigations Turkie* I. xx. 24 The Gouvernor by the counsell of those that had perswaded him too surrender,..resolved vppon so smal an assurance of the Bascha [Fr. *resolut soubz tant peu assuree parolle du Bascha*].
- 1601 B. JONSON *Every Man in his Humor* I. iii. sig. C3, *Bob*. For do you see sir,..I would not extend thus farre. *Mat*. O Lord sir I resolute so.
- a1616 SHAKESPEARE *Henry VI, Pt. 1* (1623) I. iii. 70 Resolute on this, thou shalt be fortunate, If thou receiue me for thy Warlike Mate.
- 1659 H. HAMMOND *Paraphr. & Annot. Psalms* (cxix. 151–152 Paraphr.) 610, I have allwayes, since I knew any thing of thee, resolved of the truth of it.

†**23. trans.**

a. To inform or tell (a person) of something. *Obs.*

- 1568 *Reg. Privy Council Scotl.* I. 629 It is thocht convenient to resolve all personis of the same, that nane heireftir sall pretend occasioun of ignorance.
- 1597 SHAKESPEARE *Richard III* IV. v. 19 These letters will resolve him of my minde.
- 1632 W. LITHGOW *Total Disc. Trav.* x. 451 He went back, resolving them of my stiffe denyall.
- 1645 J. CORBET *Hist. Relation Mil. Govt. Gloucester* 124 Colonell Massie tooke courage to resolve them of the incapacie of that service for the present.

b. With clause as complement, esp. expressing an indirect question. Also in *imper.* with a direct question to which the speaker seeks an answer. *Obs.* (*arch.* in later use).

- 1568 in J. Anderson *Coll. Mary Queen of Scotl.* (1728) IV. II. 56 We desir to be resolvit quether ye haife..sufficient autoritie..to pronounce..giltie or not giltie.
- 1588 A. MUNDAY tr. *Palmerin D'Oliua* xxx. f. 93, Are ye (my Lord) the king of Thessalie, for whom my hart hath suffered exceeding greefe? I prairie ye resolute me presentlie.
- a1593 MARLOWE *Massacre at Paris* (c1600) sig. D5, The wound I warrant ye is deepe my Lord, Search Surgeon and resolute me what thou seest.
- 1602 B. JONSON *Poetaster* IV. ii. 19 Pray you, resolute me, why you giue that heauenly praise, to this earthly Banquet?
- 1607 J. NORDEN *Surveyors Dialogue* II. 56, I pray thee, if thou canst, resolute me. Whether is the heriot payd [etc.]?
- 1697 DRYDEN tr. Virgil *Aeneis* VIII, in tr. Virgil *Wks.* 438 Resolute me, Strangers, whence, and what you are.
- a1704 T. BROWN *Saints in Uproar* in *Wks.* (1707) I. 111 Who was your Father? Come, resolute me immediately.
- 1709 M. PRIOR *Poems Several Occasions* 137 Can Sense this Paradox endure? Resolute me, Cambray, or Fontaine.
- 1778 R. CUMBERLAND *Battle of Hastings* III. 46 Go! Yet stay—resolute me, hast thou weigh'd the danger?
- 1840 E. S. WORTLEY *Jairah* I. ii. 36 But first—resolute me!—saidst thou thou hadst prayed, And vainly to thy Zöphiel's silent shade?

1860 A. C. SWINBURNE *Queen-mother* III. iii. 91 *Cino*. Are you yet satisfied? *Ca*. This is dead ware...
Cino. But are you not? resolve me; are not you?

c. To answer (a person); to reply to. *Obs.*

1586 G. PETTIE & B. YONG tr. S. Guazzo *Ciuile Conuersat.* (rev. ed.) IV. f. 219, I resoluue thee (faire
Ladie) thus [Fr. *Vous devez sçavoir que*; It. *Io ui faccio sapere, che*], that many times I tried
[etc.].

1632 J. VICARS tr. Virgil *XII Aeneids* v. 144 Then aged Nautes..Resolves him thus; [etc.].

†**24.**

a. *trans.* To advise (a person) to do something. Also with subordinate
clause: to give advice to (a person) regarding something. *Obs.*

1579 G. FENTON tr. F. Guicciardini *Hist. Guicciardin* x. 577 He..was nowe resoluued [Fr. *resolu*] by
discreete counsell..to spare no liberalities nor offers of money to reduce them to his amitie.

a1648 LD. HERBERT *Life Henry VIII* (1649) 395* He was resolv'd by his Counsel rather to weary and
famish the Emperors Army.

1656 T. BURTON *Diary* (1828) I. 32, I would have the Committee to resolve you how you will proceed.

b. *intr.* To consult, take counsel. *Obs.*

1591 SPENSER *Prosopopoia* in *Complaints* 123 It behoves, ere that into the race We enter, to resolve
first hereupon.

a1629 W. HINDE *Faithfull Remonstr.* (1641) xviii. 56 He made them sometimes as his counsellours, to
advise, conferre, consult, and resolve with them, in matters of conscience.

1719 D. DEFOE *Life Robinson Crusoe* 303 Let us retreat out of their View or Hearing, least they awake,
and we will resolve further.

25. *trans.* With clause as object: to decide or establish conclusively; to
conclude. Also in *pass.* with *it* as subject.

1586 EARL OF LEICESTER *Corr.* (1844) 401 The surgion doth fully resoluue..he is without danger for this
blowe.

1621 M. WROTH *Countesse of Mountgomeries Urania* 40 They all beheld this place with great wonder,
Parselius resoluuing it was some Enchantment.

1642 J. MARCH *Argument Militia* 18 It is resolved by the Judges..that the King may well hold his
Parliament..without the Spirituall Lords.

a1729 J. ROGERS *19 Serm.* (1735) iii. 49 This Happiness, it was presently resolved by all.., must be
some one uniform End,..attainable by every Man.

1735 *Lives Most Remarkable Criminals* I. 354, I..could not resolve..whether these humorous
gentlemen..were to be ranked under the Denomination of Knights Errants, or plain robbery.

1818 W. CRUISE *Digest Laws Eng. Real Prop.* (ed. 2) II. 309 It was resolved, that the remainder

limited to B. was good.

- 1842 COLE *Westm. Abbey* 107 Whether or not they [sc. mandates] were executed, our antiquaries have not yet resolved.
- 1883 W. BLACK *Shandon Bells* I. iii. 76 He resolved that it was now too late for doubt.
- 1916 *Outlook* (N.Y.) 5 July 552/1 The plain people of Mexico resolved that there was nothing divine about the order which fattened the few at the cost of the many.
- 1969 *Eng. Hist. Rev.* **84** 504 They [sc. the House of Lords] resolved that there had been a plot.
- 2003 R. A. GABRIEL *Mil. Hist. Anc. Israel* iii. 63 Although the *habiru* were..an important factor in Egyptian and Israelite history, further research has not completely resolved that they were not the Hebrews.

IV. To determine or fix upon a course of action.

26.

a. trans. To determine or decide upon (a course of action, something to be achieved or brought about, etc.); to make (something) one's firm intention.

(a) With simple object, or (more commonly) with clause as object (usually preceded by *that*).

- 1523 KING HENRY VIII in J. O. Halliwell *Lett. Kings Eng.* (1846) I. 284 We..have resolved and determined that..ye shall then have our letters of discharge.
- 1594 SHAKESPEARE *Titus Andronicus* II. i. 106 So must you resolute, That..You must perforce accomplish as you may.
- 1616 B. JONSON *Epicæne* III. iii, in *Wks.* I. 557 It shall be done, that's resolute'd.
- 1632 J. HAYWARD tr. G. F. Biondi *Eromena* 21 They resolved that the Admirall should goe disguised..to assure himselfe of the fact.
- 1667 MILTON *Paradise Lost* IX. 830 Confirm'd then I resolve, Adam shall share with me in bliss or woe.
- 1759 W. ROBERTSON *Hist. Scotl.* (1761) (ed. 4) II. VII. 151 Elizabeth resolved that no circumstance of pomp or solemnity should be wanting.
- 1781 GIBBON *Decline & Fall* III. xxix. 125 As soon as they had resolved his death, they condescended to flatter his pride.
- 1819 SHELLEY *Cenci* III. i. 42 All must be suddenly resolved and done.
- 1842 R. I. WILBERFORCE *Rutilius & Lucius* 265 He had seen enough of the Christians to resolve that nothing should induce him to stain his hands with their blood.
- 1870 J. J. McCLOSKEY *Across Continent* IV, in *America's Lost Plays* (1940) IV. 105, I resolved I would lead such a life no longer, and I became a gambler.
- 1952 T. ARMSTRONG *Adam Brunskill* ix. 305 She sternly resolved that, if she really were to be a support to her uncle, she must take herself in hand.
- 1996 J. LANCHESTER *Debt to Pleasure* (1997) 4, I resolved that I would jot down my thoughts on the subject of food as I went.

(b) With infinitive as object. Also *refl.*, with infinitive complement, in same sense.

- 1542 N. UDALL tr. Erasmus *Apophthegmes* II. f. 238, Thei had purposed and fully resolved to murdre hym, when he should nexte bee in dooyng sacrifice.
- 1596 W. LAMBARDE *Perambulation of Kent* (rev. ed.) sig. A2^v, I resolved (for sundrie iust respectes) to begin first with that Shire.
- 1598 SHAKESPEARE *Love's Labour's Lost* IV. iii. 347 Shall we resolve to woe these gyrls of Fraunce?
- 1600 E. BLOUNT tr. G. F. di Conestaggio *Hist. Uniting Portugall to Castill* 25 Solliciting Sebastian to resolve himselfe either to enter or be excluded.
- 1613 S. PURCHAS *Pilgrimage* VIII. iii. 744 He..committed many errors, especially in resolving to winter in that desolate place.
- 1653 W. RAMESEY *Astrologia Restaurata* To Rdr. 10 So they fell to words and at last..they resolved to kill one another.
- 1707 J. MORTIMER *Whole Art Husbandry* 427, I resolved to cut a Cart-way..to carry off both my Wood and Timber.
- 1761 F. SHERIDAN *Mem. Miss Sidney Bidulph* III. 312 Having resolved himself to attend him as far as Harwich, he would, at the hour appointed, call on him in a coach.
- 1791 A. RADCLIFFE *Romance of Forest* II. viii. 32 She resolved to acquaint Madame La Motte with the purport of the late conversation.
- 1856 J. A. FROUDE *Hist. Eng.* (1858) I. iii. 252 At one time he had resolved..to give way.
- 1879 W. H. DIXON *Royal Windsor* I. ii. 15 He resolved to take the Scottish invader in a trap.
- 1920 A. CARNEGIE *Autobiogr.* x. 140, I resolved to leave the service of the railway company and devote myself exclusively to my own affairs.
- 1966 M. PEI *How to learn Langs.* 92 If you resolve to learn a language, you must grit your teeth and stick at it.
- 1988 *Amer. Art Jrnl.* **20** 75/1 He finally resolved himself to remain while La Farge painted.
- 2005 T. UMRIGAR *Space between Us* (2007) xii. 132 Bhima resolves to ask Serabai for the name of some strength tonic for the girl.

b. intr., and trans. (refl.). To come to a firm decision in regard to future action or intention; to determine to do something.

(a) With *on* or *upon*; formerly also †*of*, †*in*.

- a1528 in J. Strype *Eccl. Memorials* (1721) I. App. 57 We desired his Ho[liness] that it wold please hym schortely to resolve hymself therin.
- 1548 *Hall's Vnion: Henry VI* f. clxxxv, These two great lordes, resoluinge them selfs vpon this purpose,..entered the cite of London.
- 1586 MARLOWE *Tamburlaine: 1st Pt.* II. vi, Since..He dares so doubtlessly resolve of rule.
- a1616 SHAKESPEARE *Antony & Cleopatra* (1623) III. xi. 9, I haue my selfe resolu'd vpon a course, Which has no neede of you.
- 1649 BP. J. TAYLOR *Great Exemplar* I. v. iii. 90 After..the punitive part of repentance is resolved on, and begun, and put forward..we then enter into the illuminative way of religion.
- 1660 S. PEPYS *Diary* 23 Jan. (1970) I. 26 This day the Parliament..resolved of the declaration to be printed for the people's satisfaction.
- 1706 W. NICOLSON *London Diaries* 30 Jan. (1985) 367 He..was there informed (and convinced) that the Conclave had resolved on his Death.

- 1782 F. BURNEY *Cecilia* IV. VIII. vii. 294 Cecilia..had still the..good sense..to resolve upon making the best use [etc.].
- 1809 *Susan* II. 103 Mrs. Howard..immediately resolved in going with him.
- 1837 T. HOOK *Jack Brag* xx, He resolved upon having a strong reinforcement of comestibles.
- 1872 *Rep. Vermont Board Agric.* I. 289 He who sets out to subdue a piece of quack must resolve on no half-way measures.
- 1934 'J. FIELD' *Life of One's Own* vi. 96 When what I had resolved upon did not happen I thought it must be due to some inherent weakness.
- 1951 *Times* 3 Aug. 7/1 Anderson..resolved himself upon a gallant attack, and, with Stedman..keeping his end up, they achieved the task.
- 1975 N. LUCAS *Mod. Hist. Israel* xv. 380 Ben-Gurion had resolved on pre-emptive military action in the autumn of 1955.
- 1992 E. PEARCE *Election Rides* iii. 29 We resolve upon lunch at the Cutty Sark pub.

†(b) Without construction. *Obs.*

- a1528 in J. Strype *Eccl. Memorials* (1721) I. App. 62, I desired his Ho[liness] to resolve hymself without delay or difficultie.
- 1581 P. WIBURN *Checke or Reproofe M. Howlets Shreeching* f. 59^v, Hee resolueth generally euen like hymselfe,..and for fornication particularly.
- 1590 J. SMYTHE *Certain Disc. Weapons* Ded. 8 To know, how of hymselfe..with valour to resolute and performe.
- 1597 BACON *Of Coulers Good & Euill in Ess.* (1871) 143 As he sayth well, Not to resolute, is to resolute, and many times it..ingageth as farre in some other sort as to resolute.
- 1667 MILTON *Paradise Lost* IX. 97 Thus he resolv'd, but first..His bursting passion into plaints thus pour'd.
- 1748 J. THOMSON *Castle of Indolence* II. lxii, Resolve! resolve! and to be men aspire!
- 1762 O. GOLDSMITH *Citizen of World* I. 107 So after resolving, and re-resolving, I had courage enough to tell her my mind.
- a1859 J. AUSTIN *Lect. Jurispr.* (1879) I. xxi. 452 When such expressions as 'resolving' and 'determining' are applied to a present intention to do a future act.

c. trans. to resolve with oneself: = sense 26a. Now *rare*.

- 1578 G. BEST *True Disc. Passage to Cathaya* I. 45 He determined and resolved wyth hymselfe, to go make full proofe thereof.
- 1588 J. UDALL *True Remedie* v. 86^v, The prophet..resolueth with hymselfe, that though they regard not their owne good, yet will hee continue his care ouer them.
- 1624 E. BOLTON *Nero Caesar* 140 It must necessarily precede, that he resolved with hymselfe, not to issue out to fight with Boadicia.
- 1710 LD. SHAFTESBURY *Advice to Author in Characteristicks* (1737) I. I. i. 153, I have resolv'd with myself, that the maxim might be admitted.
- 1743 H. FIELDING *Jonathan Wild* III. ii, in *Misc.* III. 196 Am I so absolutely their Master, that I can resolve with myself, *so far only will I grieve?*

- 1823 J. GALT *Ringan Gilhaize* I. 122 My grandfather resolved with himself to depart betimes for Kilmarnock, in case of any change in his temper.
- 1859 H. B. STOWE *Minister's Wooing* xvii. 277 He had inly resolved with himself that he would give Candace his opinion.
- 1908 E. PHILLPOTTS *Mother* 396 Seriously he resolved with himself to destroy Northmore.

†**d. intr.** To decide to set one's course *for* a place, destination, etc. Also (occas.) *trans. (refl.)* in same sense. *Obs.*

- a1592 R. GREENE *Frier Bacon* (1594) sig. D3, [They] Haue in their iests resolved for Oxford towne.
- 1600 SHAKESPEARE *Henry IV, Pt. 2* II. iii. 67, I will resolue for Scotland.
- a1625 J. FLETCHER *Noble Gentleman* IV. iv, in F. Beaumont & J. Fletcher *Comedies & Trag.* (1647) sig. Ff/1, Tell me, have you resolv'd your selfe for Court?
- a1643 W. CARTWRIGHT *Ordinary* (1651) v. v. 88 Let's swear Fidelity to one another, and So resolve for New England.
- 1700 'AN APOTHECARY' *Devil's Journey to London* 9 This mighty Prince..Resolves for London now what ere betide.
- 1740 tr. C. Rollin *Anc. Hist.* (ed. 2) VII. 261 He resolved for Sicily, which would open him a passage into Africa.
- 1760 *Impostors Detected* II. IV. iii. 189 We were obliged to separate, and every one take his chance... As for me I resolved for Lisbon.

e. trans. Of an event or circumstance: to make (a person) resolved or determined *to* do something. Also with *on*.

- 1814 J. H. MERIVALE *Orlando in Roncesvalles* III. 66 Smarting Pride contended with his fear, And half resolved him to abide the tempest hurrying near.
- 1836 R. BROWNING & J. FORSTER *Life Strafford* (1892) 15 The events of the interim had resolved the leaders of the house on abandoning the terms proposed.
- 1890 SIR C. RUSSELL in *Daily News* 24 July 2/7 The knowledge of this marriage resolved Lord and Lady C...to send their son abroad.
- a1902 S. BUTLER *Way of All Flesh* (1903) lxvii. 300 It was this that resolved him to part once and for all with his parents.
- 1933 A. BRYANT *S. Pepys* (1934) iv. 80 He received such unmistakable signs of the spirit of the people as resolved him to wait no longer.
- 2005 A. J. HACIKYAN et al. *Heritage Armenian Lit.* 875 This episode resolved him to learn his native tongue.

27. trans.

a. Esp. of a deliberative body or meeting: to determine formally as a resolution (RESOLUTION *n.*¹ 15a); to adopt or pass as a resolution.

Usu. with *that*-clause as object; freq. in *pass.* with *it* as subject (also with ellipsis of *it* and the auxiliary verb *to be*).

- 1563 *Orig. Jrnls. House of Commons* 21 Jan. 1 f. 219, Yt is resolved that M^r Speaker shall direct hys letter in the name of the house to come and [etc.].
- 1590 *Articles against Cartwright* in T. Fuller *Church-hist. Brit.* (1655) IX. 201 At some of such meetings..it was resolved..that such..conferences in severall Shires should be erected.
- 1604 *Orig. Jrnls. House of Commons* 26 June 3 f. 325^v, Resolved vpon further mocion, that Mr. Speaker..should present thanks to his ma^{tie}.
- 1641 in E. Nicholas *Nicholas Papers* (1886) I. 10 It was resolved that there shalbe on y^e 7th of September next a publique thanksgiving for this good accord betweene y^e 2 nacions.
- 1706 in *Acts & Resolves Mass. Bay* (1895) VIII. 721 Resolved That the sum of three hundred & fifty Pounds, be allowed..to Mr Thomas Oakes the memorialist.
- 1781 G. COCKINGS *Amer. War* v. 124 They [sc. Congress] resolved, 'That the embarkation of Lieutenant-general Burgoyne, and the army under his command, be suspended till [etc.]'.
- 1806 *Med. & Physical Jrnl.* 15 253 Resolved unanimously, that this meeting..entertains the most firm conviction that [etc.].
- 1835 *Baptist Mag.* July 282/1 The following Resolutions were resolved unanimously.
- 1849 T. B. MACAULAY *Hist. Eng.* I. ii. 175 The Commons began by resolving that every member should, on pain of expulsion, take the sacrament [etc.].
- 1905 S. DILL *Roman Society* (ed. 2) II. iii. 275 The meeting..formally resolved that the honourable Julianus should be requested to accept the distinction.
- 1970 *Music Educators Jrnl.* 56 85/2 Therefore, be it resolved that we..do nominate John Philip Sousa to the Hall of Fame for Great Americans.
- 1995 *Methodist Recorder* 3 Aug. 3/3 A special meeting..resolved that one of its five ministerial appointments..be devoted exclusively to outreach among young people in the circuit.

†b. To put (a person) *out of* a condition by passing a resolution. *Obs. rare.*

- 1798 I. ALLEN *Nat. & Polit. Hist. Vermont* 237 The inhabitants of Vermont had lived in a state of independence.., and could not now submit to be resolved out of it.